governmental assistance, if needed to this undertaking so that it can work smoothly. I would like to say that much only that it would be in the interest of this undertaking and its employees if the present practice of engaging private institutions for governmental electronic works is abandoned and all the orders regarding electronics should be placed to Uptron.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is in regard to the smuggling business which is going on in some of our border areas, especially on the Nepal border, which has been causing a very serious situation in the field of some of our agricultural products, especially cardamom. This spice which is produced by India, which is of the best quality in the world, is facing a very serious crisis. It is because low quality cardamom is being smuggled from Guatemala and some other countries of the world.

It comes to the Calcutta Port from where it is taken to Nepal by road. The smuggling is going on indiscriminately. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry and the Government but so far no effective step is taken. Unless some effective steps are taken, the best quality cardamon which we are producing will be mixed with the low quality cardamom coming from abroad and our export in this respect, which is earning high income in the form of foreign exchange, will suffer a lot.

Same is the case with regard to clove, which is another high quality spice produced in India. The farmers are facing a very serious situation because its prices have gone down very steeply. The low quality clove comes from Sri Lanka or other countries. It comes in a similar way as does the cardamom. I would urge upon the Government to take some step in this regard. This matter has been raised by the farmers who are producing cardamom as well as clove. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government but no effective step has been taken. I urge upon the Government to take serious note of it and take serious action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Pudrauna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the plight of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh. In the last fifty years, the farmers had never faced such difficulties in the disposal of sugarcane. At present, there are 113-114 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Since long the State Government used to fix the price of sugarcane after holding talks with the mill owners. It is true that High Court and Supreme Court have stated that the State Government does not have such power. The Governor called all the mill owners and fixed a price of Rs. 72 per quintal for sugarcane. Some mill owners refused to give this rate and insisted that they would make the payment at the rate of Rs. 62 per quintal and will raise the rates by Rs. 4 twice thus they would make a payment @ of Rs. 70 next year. Agitations were held on this issue and lakh of people were failed. I was also jailed. Infact I have been jailed twice on this matter. All the private sector mills refused to made payment @ Rs. 70/- per quintal. There are nine sugar mills in my constituency. The sugar mills at Ramkola Khetan is making payment @ Rs. 72/- whereas its neighbouring sugarmill at Ramkola P. is not paying even Rs. 70. For months now, agitations are being held, people are sitting on fasts and are jailed. Such a situation has never been arisen previously in the country. There is no law and orders. More Surprising is the fact that there is President Rule in Uttar Pradesh.

The representative of Union Government *i.e.* the Governor fixes a price of Rs. 70. The private mill owners are not paying even Rs. 70. The levy sugar was available earlier at the rate of Rs. 9.05 per kg. and now its price has been raised to Rs. 10.30 per kg. The price of sugar was hiked at the instance of mill owners. Thus this resulted in an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal. As a result thereof, the mill owners earned profits of billions of rupees. On the orders of Governor, the Uttar Pradesh Corporation sugar mills are paying Rs. 72 whereas the sugar mills under Central Public Sector like at Pudrauna and Kathkuian are not following these orders. What would be more surprising than this ? The Union Government sugar mills maintain that they would not pay this much and the private mill owners say that they would not give this much. Lakhs of people were jailed on this issue ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mishra, this is the zero hour. Please speak to the point and do not start a discussion.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : In the end I would request that uniformity should be ensured throughout the State regarding the price of sugarcane. All the mill owners in Uttar Pradesh should be asked to make a payment @ Rs. 72 per quintal. An additional payment should also be made to sugarcane growers in view of the hike in sugar prices @ Rs. 150 per quintal.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA (Bustar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the fact that the people of Chhatisgarh have been struggling since the sixties for creating a seprate Railway zone at Bilaspur. Not only this, the Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti is going to start relay hunger strike at Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister Shri Digvijay Singh, the matter regarding setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur was discussed with Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Hon'ble Prime Minister. Inspite of that, Hon'ble Minister of Railways did not pay any attention in this regard. The Railway Reforms Committee has also given its approval on the justification of setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur. However the Fifth Pay Commission has not only opposed but also condemned the setting up of the newly announced zones.